



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**



Public Notice Proposed DNRC/FWP Land Exchange

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) are evaluating a potential exchange of lands that the agencies administer in Beaverhead, Cascade, Lewis & Clark, Madison, Powell, and Teton Counties. The DNRC-administered Trust Land property being evaluated for exchange consists of approximately 19,551 acres, all in-holdings which are leased by FWP and located within FWP wildlife management areas. The FWP-administered land proposed for exchange is the approximately 17,030 acres Robb-Ledford Wildlife Management Area.

The purpose of evaluating exchange potential between the two agencies is to consolidate ownerships; improve management effectiveness and efficiency; and reduce the prospect of resource-management conflicts that might arise from the agencies' differing missions. Through the exchange, FWP would potentially acquire DNRC in holdings within one or more of the following Wildlife Management areas: Sun River, Spotted Dog, Blackleaf and Beartooth. DNRC would acquire grazing lands that are now interspersed with extensive DNRC holdings in the upper Ruby drainage of southwestern Montana.

Lands initially considered for exchange within each wildlife management area are displayed on the attached maps.

At this time DNRC and FWP invite public comment to identify potential issues of concern that merit review as this proposal is further considered by agency decision-makers. The agencies will utilize comments received during this scoping process to help identify issues, develop alternatives, and determine the appropriate level of environmental analysis necessary for the proposed land exchange. Note that if an exchange proceeds for further consideration and more detailed evaluation, then there will be multiple additional opportunities for public comment and participation, including public hearings in each effected county and the opportunity to comment on the environmental review and decisions by the FWP Commission and Montana State Land Board.

Please send written comments to:

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Attention: John Grimm
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Helena, MT 59620-1601
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Comments on this scoping notice must be received by April 30, 2012.









